



WISCONSIN LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL AMENDMENT MEMO

2005 Assembly Bill 479	Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 and Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Substitute Amendment 1
<i>Memo published:</i> December 15, 2005	<i>Contact:</i> Philip Cardis, Staff Attorney (267-0683) Russ Whitesel, Senior Staff Attorney (266-0922)

2005 Assembly Bill 479 relates to special distinguishing registration plates associated with the WPGA Junior Foundation and the promotion of golf in this state and making appropriations.

Assembly Substitute Amendment 1

Under **current law**, any group or organization may apply to the Department of Transportation (DOT) for designation as an authorized special group. If the application is approved, members of the authorized special group may obtain special distinguishing license plates for certain vehicles, including automobiles and motor homes that are owned or leased by special group members. A fee, in addition to the regular registration fee for the particular kind of vehicle, is assessed for the issuance or reissuance of most special plates.

Before October 2, 1998, authorized special groups whose members may obtain special distinguishing license plates were specifically enumerated in state law. Current law provides that specific enumeration in state law of authorized special groups is limited to those special groups enumerated before October 2, 1998. Members of six special groups enumerated in state law pay an additional annual fee as a tax deductible contribution.

This **substitute amendment** establishes an authorized special group specifically enumerated in state law for persons interested in obtaining special distinguishing registration plates supporting the efforts of the WPGA Junior Foundation, Inc. (Foundation) to provide opportunities, enjoyment, and education to junior golfers in this state and promoting golf in this state. In addition to the regular vehicle registration fee, special group members are required to pay a \$15 fee for issuance or reissuance of the special plates and an additional \$25 annual fee, 75% of which provides funds to the Foundation and 25% of which is provided to the Department of Tourism (Tourism) to promote golf in this state. The substitute amendment requires Tourism to enter into an agreement with the Foundation with respect to funds to be provided to the Foundation, and the agreement must grant Tourism authority, without fee to

Tourism, to use any applicable trademark of the Foundation with respect to the special plates. The substitute amendment also requires the Foundation to annually submit an audited financial statement of its use of these funds, and discontinues funding if the Foundation dissolves or loses its tax-exempt status under federal law. DOT must specify the design of the special plates after consultation with Tourism and with the chief executive officer of the Foundation.

Current law requires DOT to establish new designs for most vehicle registration plates, including most special plates, every seven years and to issue the new plates on a rolling basis as vehicle registrations are renewed by the vehicle owners. For most special plates, the plate design cycle began on July 1, 2000, and a new plate design cycle begins on July 1, 2007. This **substitute amendment** provides that the design of the special plates established under the bill is to be the same for both the remainder of the seven-year design cycle that began on July 1, 2000, and the seven-year design cycle that begins on July 1, 2007.

Also, the **substitute amendment** provides a one-time appropriation of \$43,600 to the Division of Motor Vehicles (DMV) to cover DMV's costs for the plates created under the bill.

Assembly Amendment 1 to Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 makes the following changes:

1. Reconciles the provisions of the substitute amendment with the related provisions adopted as part of 2005 Act 25 (the Budget Bill). Act 25 extended the redesign period for specialized license plates from 7 to 10 years.
2. Deletes nonstatutory language from the substitute amendment relating to the scheduled redesign of the foundation license plates, which will have the effect of having that license plate be eligible for redesign in the same sequence as other license plates.

Legislative History

On July 14, 2005, the Assembly Committee on Transportation recommended Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 for adoption by a vote of Ayes, 13; Noes, 1. The committee then recommended passage of the bill, as amended, by a vote of Ayes, 13; Noes, 1. The Assembly adopted Assembly Amendment 1, introduced by Representative Ziegelbauer, to Assembly Substitute Amendment 1 on a voice vote and passed the bill, as amended, on a vote of Ayes, 94; Noes, 3, on September 27, 2005.

PGC:RW:ksm:tlu